

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05990 281537Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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R 281532Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9684

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: ENHANCED JEWISH INTEREST IN HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

1. EMBOFFS ATTENDED SUNDAY ENGLISH LANGUAGE GROUP MEETING HELD BY JEWISH REFUSENIKS AND WERE TOLD OF INCREASED INTEREST WITHIN THE MOSCOW JEWISH COMMUNITY IN CELEBRATIONS OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS. REFUSENIK SOURCES STATED THAT ON SUNDAY, MARCH 26, AT LEAST 250 ADULTS AND 50 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN A DAY-LONG PARTY IN THE FOREST IN CELEBRATION OF PURIM. ATTENDANCE WAS DOCUMENTED BY PAYMENT BY EACH ADULT OF ONE RUBLE FOR DRINKS AND SHASHLIK.

2. OUR SOURCES STATED THAT ATTENDANCE HAS INCREASED RECENTLY FOR THESE FOREST CELEBRATIONS. THIS PAST JANUARY OVER 100 PEOPLE ATTENDED A WINTER CELEBRATION ALTHOUGH TEMPERATURES WERE MINUS 18 DEGREES CENTIGRADE. KGB OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT AT ALL THESE CELEBRATIONS BUT MADE NO ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH THE FESTIVITIES.

3. AS A FOOTNOTE, IT WAS REPORTED THAT PLANS ARE MOVING FORWARD TO REESTABLISH A YIDDISH THEATER GROUP IN THE SOVIET UNION; HOWEVER, OUR SOURCES CLAIM THAT THIS GROUP WILL ONLY PERFORM ABROAD AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO CONVINCE THE WORLD THAT IT IS
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ASSISTING JEWISH CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, HOLIDAYS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
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Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
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